

my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

EMERGENCE OF AMERICAN HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we are in interesting times. I think it was Confucius who said to live in interesting times is a great opportunity. It is.

Unfortunately, the rule of law and democracy are at stake. And as they are and as the Intel Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Oversight and Reform Committee have hearings—and later, there will be public hearings—we are seeing American heroes emerge.

Today, an American hero, a lieutenant colonel who earned a Purple Heart, will be testifying. Colonel Vindman listened to the conversation between President Zelensky and President Trump, and he will testify as to what happened. It won't be a memorandum; it will be what really took place on that call and why it alarmed him so much.

The administration doesn't want Colonel Vindman to testify, but he is testifying because he is a patriot, because it is his duty, and because he knows what is at stake.

What is at stake is democracy. What is at stake is our Constitution. What is at stake is our Republic.

□ 1045

We have had other people testify, the Ambassador who was removed 2 months early because she refused to go along with what was taking place, and Ms. Fiona Hill. These are heroes. These are patriots.

Unfortunately, on some news networks that are mouthpieces for the administration, they have had their patriotism questioned, and they have been vilified.

This is the beginning of despotism. When heroes who come forth with proud careers of service in the State Department or the military, without a blemish on their record, and without trying to benefit financially from anybody at all, except doing their job for the United States of America, are questioned because they come forth to testify as to information that threatens our Constitution, that shows abuse of power and an effort to not comply with our Constitution and carrying out congressionally-mandated spending to protect a country fighting Russian aggression in their own territory.

These are not people like Manafort, and Flynn, and Carter Page, who wanted and got money from Ukrainians, and Turks, and Russians, and others to benefit themselves from countries that do not have our interests at heart.

So, as we live through these interesting times, let us appreciate the heroes that are emerging, giving testimony, and putting their jobs and their

future security and their reputations at risk because, unfortunately, rather than being hailed as the heroes that they truly are, they are being vilified; and that is dangerous, and it is concerning to me.

Some of the people that vilify them praise people like Flynn and Manafort, who sold our country out for their own personal advancement and riches.

America, beware, and honor those who stand up for you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rabbi Evan Hoffman, Congregation Anshe Sholom, New Rochelle, New York, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, bless the work of the United States House of Representatives. Fortify our legislators' constitutional commitments and grant them the wisdom to draft laws that best serve the interests of the American people. O Lord, in a time of polarization and rancorous dispute, we beseech Thee to help our elected officials maintain decorum, civility, commonality of purpose, and a sense of shared American destiny.

Heavenly Father, guide our Representatives so that they might serve, in the eyes of the citizenry, as role models of reconciliation and cooperation. We pray that in a future time the prophet's words might be said in reference to this Congress: "Restore your judges as in days of old, your counselors as at the beginning."

Bless our Nation with peace and prosperity, our citizens with health and happiness, and our national institutions with strength and stability. May this be Your will, and let us say: amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUDD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING RABBI EVAN HOFFMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my dear friend and constituent, Rabbi Evan Hoffman, for giving the opening prayer today.

Rabbi Hoffman has led Congregation Anshe Sholom in New Rochelle, New York, since 2012. He graduated Yeshiva College summa cum laude, where he received ordination from Rabbi Isaac Elchanan's Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Hoffman is an accomplished author, writing the weekly essay series titled "Thoughts on the Parashah," as well as the editor of English language publications for Talmud Israeli.

Rabbi Hoffman was raised in Great Neck, New York, and is an avid New York Mets fan. Rabbi Hoffman and his wife, Sari, are the proud parents of two wonderful children, Eliyahu and Elana.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for the wonderful prayer this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAYNE). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HOUSE APPROVAL OF VETERAN TREATMENT COURT COORDINATION ACT

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the House approval of the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act legislation led by Chairman CHARLIE CRIST, of which I am a proud cosponsor, directing grants, training, and assistance for communities to establish and operate veteran treatment courts.

In 2008, Buffalo City Court Judge Robert Russell established the very first veteran treatment court in the Nation. Today, there are over 400 such courts. These specialized courts provide veterans, many battling substance abuse or post-traumatic stress disorder, with a tactical path to avoid jail and take command of their future.

At their side are fellow veterans, also known as battle buddies, who serve as volunteer mentors, as well as judges and professional staff who can connect these warriors with VA benefits. Support for veteran treatment courts allows the Nation to give veterans what they have given us: freedom and peace.

PRESIDENT TRUMP RECEIVES BIPARTISAN JUSTICE AWARD

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

MR. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to President Donald Trump for receiving the Bipartisan Justice Award for his historic success on criminal justice reform at Columbia's Benedict College.

This is another example of President Trump's "promises made, promises kept," accomplishing what former administrations have failed to achieve, also proving the importance of doing what is right and focusing on issues truly affecting the American people.

It is always exciting for South Carolinians when President Trump visits. My wife, Roxanne, and I were grateful to welcome President Trump at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport at Springdale with Governor Henry McMaster and First Lady Peggy McMaster; Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette and her husband, David; and Senator TIM SCOTT. The President was warmly welcomed.

I am grateful to Benedict College President Roslyn Clark Artis for her dedicated service.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

FUND THE NEXT GENERATION OF SKILLED WORKERS

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, in Rhode Island and across the country, the manufacturing industry employs Americans in high-paying, high-skilled jobs while driving innovation and bolstering our national defense.

Unfortunately, manufacturers in my home State have informed me that they can't find enough qualified candidates to fill job openings, and their current workforce is aging. This is something that is facing manufacturers, I know, across the country.

To address this challenge, I have been a strong advocate for career and technical education, and yesterday, I introduced the Retain Innovation and Manufacturing Excellence Act.

This bill, which is a companion to my good friend Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE's bill in the Senate, will help manufacturers train new workers by providing funds to retain retiring employees long enough to train their replacements.

Our Nation's manufacturers are a cornerstone of our economy, and I am proud to introduce this bill during Manufacturing Month to build the next generation of skilled workers.

RECOGNIZING MENINAK CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the Meninak Club of Jacksonville, Florida, which is celebrating 100 years of service and camaraderie within our northeast Florida community.

Meninak members are often leaders of business, military, and civic organizations who join together to make a positive impact on others. For a century, they have made a difference in the lives of many through their annual charity project and numerous scholarships for students, including \$25,000 in Youth Leadership Grants each year.

Since 1933, Meninak has also sponsored the Ocean Marathon Swim, a 3.5-mile swim competition for members of the American Red Cross Volunteer Life Saving Corps at Jacksonville Beach.

Their many charitable works include building affordable homes for those in need, working with the Salvation Army during Christmastime, and mentoring local disadvantaged folks in Jacksonville.

I congratulate the Meninak Club for 100 years of "lending help where none is available."

MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION AC- CESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS

(Mr. MORELLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a critical piece of legislation that my colleagues and I in the Committee on Education and Labor are currently marking up next door, the College Affordability Act.

For too many students across our Nation, the dream of pursuing higher education remains out of reach. Rising tuition costs and financially debilitating loans prevent young people from reaching their full potential, and that is simply unacceptable.

That is why we are working to provide relief for students through the College Affordability Act. This reauthorization of the Higher Education Act restores Federal investments in public colleges, increases the value of grant opportunities, and makes student loans easier to pay off.

Nothing should stand in the way of the success of our children's educational opportunities, especially not the fear of crippling long-term debt.

Mr. Speaker, I am on my way back to the committee room to continue our work to make higher education accessible and affordable for all students.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH DAVIS, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK'S FIRST FEMALE CHIEF RANGER

(Mr. BUDD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lexington, North Carolina, native Sarah Davis for recently becoming Yellowstone National Park's first female chief ranger. This is a huge milestone, and our Davidson County community could not be more proud of her.

Over the past two decades, Sarah has held various leadership roles, including at North Carolina's own Guilford Courthouse National Military Parks and also Blue Ridge Parkways. Sarah is well suited for this position as she becomes the 18th chief ranger in more than 100 years of Yellowstone National Park.

When asked to describe her leadership qualities, the superintendent said: "She is an outstanding leader, with a track record of high performance, strategic thinking, and collaboration."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Sarah Davis of Lexington, North Carolina, on her new position at Yellowstone National Park. We wish her the best of luck.

SUPPORT ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 296 that commemorates the Armenian genocide through official recognition and remembrance.

More than 100 years ago, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by the Ottoman Empire. There is no argument that this undeniable crime against humanity occurred. It is not an opinion or an interpretation of events. It is fact.

Yet, despite the overwhelming consensus of historians and scholars, there are those who would deny the awful truth that this was a genocide. To those, I would say if you do not recognize the darkest pages of history, you will never fully learn the lessons they hold.

Today, I stand with my constituents from across my district, but particularly from Watertown, Massachusetts, home to a thriving Armenian diaspora community, to urge this House to pass H. Res. 296 and recognize this crime against humanity for what it was, a genocide.

RECOGNIZE OCTOBER AS GERMAN- AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)